# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3341
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2015
Indo-Australia Cooperation in Defence Sector
Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India and Australia have held any delegation level talks to discuss issues of shared strategic interest and the bilateral defence relationship between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas so far identified by both the countries for enhanced cooperation in the future; and

(c) the details of Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement signed between the two countries?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) & (b): The following delegation level talks were held between the India and Australia recently to discuss issues of shared strategic interest and the bilateral defence relationship between the two countries:

(i) Defence Minister level talks: The Australian Defence Minister visited India and held delegation level talks with Raksha Mantri on 2nd September 2015.

(ii) Defence Policy Talks (DPT): The fourth DPT was held from 24-26 June 2015 at Canberra. These talks are conducted at the level of Additional / Special Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

During the aforesaid meetings, inter alia, the issues relating to cooperation in Defence Research and Technology, establishment of Material Cooperation Joint Working Group, partnership between peacekeeping centre of the two countries; greater cooperation between the armed forces; continuation of bilateral maritime exercise on a biennial basis etc were discussed.

(c) The following Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Agreement have been signed between the two countries:

(i) Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation was signed in March 2006.

(ii) An arrangement for the Reciprocal Protection of Exchanged Classified Information of Defence Interest was signed in July 2007.

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